

Message Text

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J3

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SS-20 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSC-07 NSCE-00 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8914

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ZAGREB PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IT, YO, US

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV APPREHENSIONS OVER DARK IMAGE, SHIP VISITS

REF: BELGRADE 1495

1. REFTEL DESCRIBES YUGOSLAV CONCERN OVER EXERCISE DARK IMAGE AND THE VISIT OF US SHIPS TO TRIESTE DURING THIS PERIOD OF TENSION OVER THE ZONE B QUESTION.

2. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE US INTEREST TO CANCEL TRIESTE PORT CALL AND THUS AVOID HANDING YUGOSLAVS FURTHER PRETEXT FOR EMBROILING US IN THE ZONE B CONTROVERSY. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD TAKE STRONG EXCEPTION TO SUCH A MOVE, AND, IN ANY CASE, THAT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO SET UP ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS NOW.

3. SOME GESTURE REFLECTING OUR NEUTRALITY IN THIS DISPUTE WOULD HOWEVER, BE HELPFUL. THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE SAID THAT OUR SILENCE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TRIESTE ISSUE, COUPLED WITH THE MANEUVERS AND PORT CALLS, BEING INTERPRETED AS SIGNS OF US SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN "PRETENSIONS" TO YUGOSLAV TERRITORY. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER OUR FAILURE TO DISSOCIATE OURSELVES FROM THE ITALIAN POSITION.

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4. I AM, OF COURSE, AWARE OF IMPORTANCE ESCHEWING PUBLIC POSITION WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO UNDERCUT THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT. ON OTHER HAND, NO ONE SHOULD BE LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT BY ITS SILENCE US GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS IDEA OF REOPENING TRIESTE QUESTION. TO THIS END, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL EXERCISE TO CALL IN THE AMBASSADORS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, REITERATE THE US POSITION STATED AT THE TIME OF THE LONDON MEMORANDUM SIGNING, I.E., THE USG "WILL GIVE NO SUPPORT TO CLAIMS OF EITHER YUGOSLAVIA OR ITALY TO TERRITORY UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE OTHER", EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE ESCALATING TENSIONS BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS, AND STATE OUR STRONG HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO COOL ATMOSPHERE BY INFORMAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

TOON

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Message Attributes

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